

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Edmonds Dental Prosthetics Inc

#### Missouri Enterprise

#### Lean Helps Edmonds Dental Prosthetics, Inc. Increase Output and Realize Cost Savings

**Client Profile:**

Edmonds Dental Prosthetics, Inc., produces crowns, bridges, dentures, implants and orthodontic devices. The 30-year-old company, with branches in West Plains and Jefferson City, currently employs 100 people at its facility in Springfield, Missouri.

**Situation:**

Edmonds Dental, a successful and highly respected provider of custom, one-of-a-kind products, was committed to enhancing productivity and reducing lead time with no decrease in quality. The company contacted Missouri Enterprise, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

**Solution:**

Missouri Enterprise initiated a Lean Enterprise continuous improvement program, including both staff training and hands-on implementation support. The first phase of the program introduced Edmonds Dental to Lean Enterprise principles, demonstrating how Lean tools reduce processing time, increase productivity and product quality, and make better use of laboratory space by improving organization and material flow through the facility. Missouri Enterprise then supported the company's Lean team and management in developing current and future state Value Stream Map (VSM). Based on the VSMs created, Missouri Enterprise helped the company examine and prioritize continuous improvement opportunities and conduct a series of very intensive and highly focused continuous improvement efforts, called Kaizen Events. The continuous improvement program enabled the company to incorporate industry best practices and state-of-the-art techniques to enhance productivity and reduce lead time.

**Results:**

- \* Increased sales by \$160,000.
- \* Realized \$75,000 in cost savings.
- \* Invested \$40,000 in plant and equipment.
- \* Created 3 jobs.

**Testimonial:**

"Missouri Enterprise's approach demonstrated their professionalism, their commitment to companies like ours and their thorough understanding of manufacturing process improvements. They supported our efforts very effectively and really helped keep us on track."

Jim Bauer, General Manager

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